

A<sub>3</sub> 7. (Amended) Analytical test element as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein] claim 15, wherein the detection element [acts] is formed to act as a filter for particulate sample components. how

8. (Amended) Analytical test as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein] claim 15, wherein the channel capable of capillary liquid transport is at least partially formed by the carrier, an inert cover and the detection element wherein the cover and detection element are located on the side of the channel that is opposite to the carrier and are arranged adjacent to one another in such a way that the cover is located on the side facing the sample application opening.

9. (Amended) Analytical test element as claimed in claim 8, [wherein] wherein the detection element and the cover abut each other so that the capillary liquid transport is not interrupted at the site of contact of detection element and cover.

10. (Amended) Analytical test element as claimed in claim 9, [wherein] wherein a flexible inert foil is mounted on the side of the cover that faces the channel capable of capillary liquid transport which extends over the entire length of the cover, covers the entire width of the capillary channel and is at least partially enclosed between the opposing surfaces of the cover and detection element so that the capillary liquid transport does not break down at the site of contact between the detection element and cover.

USE  
A<sub>4</sub> 13. (Amended) Use of an analytical test element as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 12] claim 15 for the determination of an analyte in a liquid.

Please add new claims 15-40 as follows:

✓ A<sub>5</sub> 15. Analytical test element for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising:

an inert carrier,

a detection element, and

a channel capable of capillary liquid transport, the channel including a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, wherein the channel is

formed at least partially by the carrier and the detection element and extends in the direction of capillary transport from the sample application opening to at least the edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening and wherein a notch is located in one of the surfaces forming the channel capable of capillary liquid transport at the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening so that one side of the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening is at least partially discontinuous and the surface opposite to the notch is exposed.

16. Analytical test element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

✓  
24. An analytical test apparatus for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the apparatus comprising:

an inert carrier, and

a detection element cooperating with the carrier to form at least part of a channel formed for capillary liquid transport, the channel having a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, the channel extending from the sample application opening to at least an edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening, and wherein one of the surfaces forming the channel includes a notch at the sample application opening so that one side of the edge is discontinuous.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the channel is hydrophilized.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic material.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by a hydrophilic layer.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.

29. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

30. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an inert cover cooperating with the carrier and the detection element to define at least a portion of the channel.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the cover and the detection element are located on the side of the channel that is opposite the carrier.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the cover and detection element are arranged adjacent to one another so that the cover is positioned on the side facing the sample application opening.

33. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the detection element and the cover abut each other.

34. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a flexible inert foil mounted on the cover and facing the channel.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the foil covers the entire width of the channel and is at least partially enclosed between the opposing surfaces of the cover and the detection element.

36. A method for determining an analyte in a liquid sample, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an analytical test element for the determination of an analyte in a liquid, the test element comprising an inert carrier, a detection element, and a channel capable of capillary liquid transport, the channel including a sample application opening at one end and a vent opening at the other end, wherein the channel is formed at least partially by the carrier and the detection element and extends in the direction of capillary transport from the sample application opening to at least the edge of the detection element that is nearest to the vent opening and wherein a notch is located in one of the surfaces forming the channel capable of capillary liquid transport at the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening so that one side of the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening is at least partially discontinuous and the surface opposite to the notch is exposed,

contacting the test element with the liquid sample at the edge of the sample application opening, which is interrupted by the notch so that the sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel and wets and penetrates the surface of the detection element that faces the channel, and

observing the liquid sample in the detection element to draw conclusions about the presence of the analyte in the liquid sample.

what?  
how?